

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Y. Raheja on March 19, 2010.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A management system, for managing usage states of a working machine by a plurality of users, comprising:

a server ~~being capable of communication~~ for communicating via a wireless communication network with the working machine, and also capable of communication with a plurality of user terminals,

the working machine comprising:

identification information input means which inputs user identification information of one user who is using the working machine at the present time;

machine information generation means which receives a signal from a predetermined sensor within the working machine and generates machine information related to a state or to an operation of the working machine; and

a communication device which can perform communication with the server via the wireless communication network, and which transmits to the server the user

identification information which has been inputted by the identification information input means and the machine information which has been generated by the machine information generation means,

the server comprising:

storage means which stores information;

communication control means which can perform communication with the working machine via the wireless communication network, which also can perform communication with the plurality of user terminals, and which receives the user identification information and the machine information from the working machine and transmits a warning to the plurality of user terminals;

usage state decision means ~~which detects by which user for detecting which user's usage of the working machine [[which]] constitutes a problem is performed,~~ based on the user identification information and the machine information received by the communication control means; and

warning generation means which generates the warning in response to the usage state decision means, and makes the communication device transmit the warning to the plurality of user terminals.

wherein the working machine comprises a working time sensor,

the machine information includes working time information showing a working time which has been detected by the working time sensor, and

the usage state decision means comprises

reservation information reception means which receives reservation information showing a scheduled time for use of the working machine from each user terminal and the user identification information of the one user who has made a reservation, and which stores the received reservation information in association with the user identification information in the storage means;

machine information reception means which, based on the user identification information and the working time information included in the machine information received by the communication control means, generates actual usage information which shows time and data of an actual usage of the working machine due to each user, and stores the actual usage information in association with the user identification information in the storage means; and

information comparison means which, by comparing the reservation information associated with the user identification information stored in the storage means with the actual usage information, detects, as an usage which constitutes a problem, an actual usage due to a user for which, in the user or the usage time, a substantial difference from the reservation information exists.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented): The management system according to Claim 1, wherein the working machine comprises a position measurement sensor,

the machine information includes position information showing a position which has been detected by the position measurement sensor, and

the usage state decision means comprises:

reservation information reception means which receives reservation information showing a scheduled place for use of the working machine from each user terminal and the user identification information of the one user who has made a reservation, and which stores the received reservation information in association with the user identification information in the storage means;

machine information reception means which, based on the user identification information and the position information included in the machine information received by the communication control means, generates actual usage information which shows the actual usage place of the working machine due to each user, and stores an actual usage information in association with the user identification information for each user in the storage means; and

information comparison means which, by comparing the reservation information in association with the user identification information stored in the storage means with the actual usage information, detects, as an usage which constitutes a problem, an actual usage due to a user for which, in the usage place, a substantial difference from the reservation information exists.

4. (Previously Presented): The management system according to Claim 1, wherein the working machine comprises an engine cooling water temperature sensor,

the machine information includes water temperature information showing an engine cooling water temperature which has been detected by the engine cooling water temperature sensor, and

the usage state decision means comprises:

machine information reception means which, based on the user identification information and the water temperature information included in the machine information received by the communication control means, calculates an engine water temperature or a load amount of the working machine which originates in usage due to each user; and

information comparison means which, based on the engine water temperature or the load amount, for each user, which has been calculated by the machine information reception means, detects, as an usage which constitutes a problem, an usage imposing an excessive load on the working machine, performed by the user.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 3-4 are allowed

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art is Hanson et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,954,689) and Bernold (W00052627). The combination of Hanson and Bernold fails to teach or suggest a machine information reception means which, based on the user identification information and the working time information included in the machine information received by the communication control means, generates actual usage information which shows time and data of an actual usage of the working machine due to each user, and stores the actual usage information in association with the user identification information in the storage means, as recited in independent claim 1.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Reimer (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,088) discloses a system and method for monitoring the fuel level in a vehicle.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-6702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866 217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571 272-1000.

/Romain Jeanty/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624
March 25, 2010